

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Please Post

Activity: Quarterly Fire Chiefs' and Rescue Captains' Meeting

Date: September 17, 2009

Organizations Represented:

- Public Safety Administration
- Department 1/Rocky Mount Fire
- Company 3/Ferrum Fire
- Company 4/Glade Hill Fire
- Company 5/Callaway Fire
- Company 7/Boones Mill Fire
- Company 8/Fork Mountain Fire
- Company 9/Burnt Chimney Fire
- Company 10/Scruggs Fire
- Company 12/Hardy Fire
- Company 14/Henry Fire
- Squad 2/Franklin County Rescue
- Squad 3/Ferrum Rescue
- Squad 4/Glade Hill Rescue
- Squad 5/Callaway Rescue
- Squad 6/Snow Creek Rescue
- Squad 8/Fork Mountain Rescue
- Squad 9/Red Valley Rescue
- Squad 10/Scruggs Rescue
- Squad 11/Dive Team
- Squad 13/Cool Branch Rescue

Organizations Not Represented:

- Company 6/Snow Creek Fire
- Company 11/Smith Mountain Lake Fire
- Company 13/Cool Branch Fire

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: Please find below a summary of the topics that were discussed and relevant information regarding those topics. If you have any questions, please contact your Rescue Captain or Fire Chief for details.

- The meeting was moderated by Operations Division Chief, Billy Ferguson. Mr. Ferguson opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance.
- Lucia Burnette, Communications Supervisor with the Sheriff's Department, addressed the group on issues regarding dispatching. She indicated that the SMS text messaging program was progressing and she was adding new numbers into the system as time permitted. She also indicated that the high band paging/dispatching test was going well. She touched on Emergency Medical Dispatching but indicated that at this time there were no plans to begin EMD but that the Board of Supervisors had made this a major goal and would like to see something started on this project by 2011. She also said that due to the high volume of administrative calls into the dispatch center all emergency medical service providers

should call 483-3002 or 483-3003 to reach dispatch on a non-emergency basis. Any questions regarding dispatching should be directed to Lucia Burnette.

- Daryl Hatcher, Director of Public Safety provided the following information:
 - The Board of Supervisors has indicated that each county department needs to establish a level of service standards. Mr. Hatcher indicated that most agencies within the Public Safety department already adhere to this sort of policy however it needs to be written on paper and made a part of a guideline. Mr. Hatcher will be establishing a committee of three fire representatives and three rescue representatives to establish these service standards. Mr. Hatcher indicated that this needs to be completed by 2011. Anyone interested in serving on this committee should contact Mr. Hatcher.
 - At the last Board of Supervisors' retreat, the Board wants to look at funding fire/EMS buildings using a basic plan. The basic plan would be determined by a joint meeting of representatives of each agency. There is no time frame for implementation of a plan but Mr. Hatcher will be holding special meetings to discuss the plan.
 - Mr. Hatcher advised that we are getting daily updates from area hospitals regarding the H1N1 virus. In the last 10 weeks, at least 10 cases have been confirmed. Mr. Hatcher advised that each agency needs to have a contingency plan in place in the event of a widespread outbreak within your agency personnel. Dispatchers will start screening calls and there may be temporary protocols implemented if an outbreak becomes overwhelming to current resources. More information will be made available shortly for vaccination of our emergency services personnel.
 - If there are specific areas of concern for your department's 2010/2011 budget Mr. Hatcher needs to be notified by October 29, 2009. All budget preparations have been moved up in anticipation of shortfalls. If there are specific needs outside of the normal funding parameters, contact Mr. Hatcher.
 - Mr. Hatcher advised that Franklin County had been awarded a grant to install laptops in all EMS transport vehicles. Billy Ferguson, Mike Pruitt and Dr. Lane are reviewing software packages at this time and once a decision has been made they will be installed on the laptops for use. Classes will be given to train all members. This process should be completed within 30 – 45 days. **At this time, no more written PPCRs are being accepted by the State.**
- Billy Ferguson presented the following information:
 - At the June 25, 2009, meeting Billy asked that all representatives be thinking about what could be done to streamline the application process. More discussion ensued at this meeting and Tim Jefferson, Chief of Burnt Chimney Fire Company indicated that he would be willing to chair a committee. If you are interested in serving on the application committee, contact Tim Jefferson.
 - Billy advised everyone that if a radio is lost/damaged/stolen when the report is made to file with the insurance carrier, we need to know the serial number of the radio. Currently, extended warranties are purchased on all portable radios and if we have the serial number of the missing radio, the insurance carrier will reimburse the cost of the warranty. Without the serial number, only the amount of the radio less the deductible will be paid.
 - Billy indicated the 3rd Monday of each month Franklin County Public Safety is on the Cable 12 show, "Rise and Shine". If anyone is interested in appearing with Billy on this show, please contact him. This is also a good time for advertisements of upcoming events. Contact Billy for more information on this topic.

- Bennie Russell presented the following information:
 - The Town of Rocky Mount is trying to track their water usage a little more closely. If a fire truck uses the hydrants in Rocky Mount be sure to let the Town know so that they can track usage.
 - A key will be given to fire departments that will fit Knox boxes being used throughout the County. This key should be placed on the fire truck key ring. The same key will fit all Knox boxes. If a department is issued a Knox box key and the key is lost or misplaced, notify Bennie Russell immediately and all keys will have to be replaced. For more information, contact Bennie.
 - In the future, Bennie would like application sent in for background and driver checks to include a copy of the applicant's driver's license.

A question and comments session followed the meeting.

The next meeting will be the Annual Christmas Dinner on December 2, 2009. More information will be sent out shortly.

Meeting adjourned.